GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3062
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Development of Linguistic Minorities
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to safeguard linguistic minority languages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the various schemes available for the development of linguistic minorities;

(c) whether the international mother-tongue day was celebrated recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

(a) to (b) In accordance with Article 350-B of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities [commonly known as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities(CLM)] to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Linguistic Minorities under the Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned..

The CLM takes up all the matters pertaining to the grievances arising out of the non-implementation of the Constitutional and Nationally Agreed Scheme of Safeguards provided to linguistic minorities that come to its notice or are brought to its knowledge by the linguistic minority individuals, groups, associations of organizations at the highest political and administrative levels of the State Governments and UT Administrations and recommends remedial actions to be taken.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated a 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages' implemented by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore for protection and preservation of minor/minority languages/mother tongues' spoken by fewer than 10000 persons.

(c) & (d) Matribhasha Diwas (Mother Tongue Day) was celebrated in various Educational Institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 03-03-2016 to highlight the objectives like linguistic diversity of our country, encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue, but other Indian languages to understand and draw attention to the diversity of languages and cultures, encourage learning of languages other than own mother tongue.

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